

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims pending

- At the time of the Action: Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 22-24.
- After Entry of this Response: Claims 1-7, and 9-14.

Canceled claims: 22-24.

Amended claims: 1 and 11.

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently amended) A method for blocking at least one outgoing communication from a calling party to a calling line selected by the calling party in connection with a parental control feature offered to subscribers as an outgoing call blocking service, said calling party having a calling line identification number, said method comprising:

enabling the subscriber to select special feature codes and request that outgoing communications that relate to the special feature codes, and that originate from the calling line identification number, be blocked, wherein special feature codes are received by an automated system that recognizes oral commands and alphanumeric input;

receiving an outgoing communication related to at least one of the special feature codes, said calling line associated with at least one subscriber to the outgoing call blocking service;

obtaining a calling line identification number for said received outgoing communication;

obtaining a called line identification number for said received outgoing communication;

activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time;

de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time;

looking for said calling line identification number associated with the received outgoing communication in a data store to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked;

terminating the received outgoing communication if the data indicates that the received outgoing communication is to be blocked; and

overriding the outgoing call blocking service for at least a second single outgoing communication from the calling line in response to receiving an override code.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the special feature code is a star-feature code.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the special feature code relates to conference call capabilities.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of at least one of a plurality of called line identification numbers of calls which are to be blocked.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all long distance calls.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified area codes.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except local calls.

11. (Currently amended) A method of activating an outgoing call blocking service provided as a parental control feature, the method comprising:

receiving, from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line, a predetermined access code to the outgoing call blocking service;

prompting a subscriber to the outgoing call blocking service to provide data concerning outgoing calls to be blocked, wherein the subscriber is prompted to use oral commands to provide data;

receiving the orally-provided data and converting the orally-provided data to alphanumeric data;

storing said alphanumeric data in a data store associated with the outgoing call blocking service;

activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing long-distance calls from being placed from the calling line;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified area code;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified telephone number;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit calls that relate to special feature codes from being placed from the calling line, wherein at least one of the special features is a star feature code that relates to conference calling capabilities;

enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified local telephone number; and

enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified telephone number.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
prompting the caller for an authorization code; and
comparing the received authorization code with a stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising activating the service if the received authorization code corresponds to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising not activating the service if the received authorization code does not correspond to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

15. - 24. (Canceled)